Higher yields by Gene Technology

*554. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that developments in gene technology promise new gentically-based advances, leading to higher yields and better quality;

(b) whether introducing any new technology needs extensive testing and safety regulations, alongwith proper management knowledge and trust; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Assessment of Gentically Modified (GM) organisms technologies, for bio-safety is mandatory. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment and Forests have regulatory procedures under the Environments (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules—1989. These Rules were notified on 05.12.1989. The Rules are applicable for taking up activities like manufacture, sale, import, use and storage involving recombinant DNA technology/GM products. The mechanism involves different committees/authorities namely Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) etc. These operate from central to district level for proper risk assessment, management, knowledge and trust and release of products.

Menace of Deer and Neel Gai in Mehasana

†*555. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that population of Deer and Neel Gai is constantly increasing in Mehsana District of Gujarat, is causing damage to crops in many areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this menace?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.